

# How to Host Your Own Food Drive

The Compass Food Bank and Outreach Centre

“Together, we provide help for today and hope for tomorrow”

310 Lakeshore Road West

Mississauga, Ontario

L5H 1G8

905-274-9309

[info@thecompass.ca](mailto:info@thecompass.ca)

[www.thecompass.ca](http://www.thecompass.ca)

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## Why Should You Host Your Own Food Drive?

Imagine a Mississauga where no one goes hungry. Did you know that 15% of Mississauga residents live in poverty? Despite living in a bustling and prosperous city, many of our fellow residents struggle with inadequate incomes, unaffordable housing, and unstable family situations. Sadly, an increasing number of individuals are depending on food banks to fill in the gaps during difficult periods of their life.

By sponsoring a food drive in your local school, neighbourhood, or community, you are making a positive impact in the community.

In 2018, The Compass received, sorted, shelved, and distributed more than 444,000 pounds of food to 850 different households. Unfortunately, there is always more demand than supply when it comes to healthy food and household necessities. By supporting The Compass, you can be a part of the solution in alleviating hunger and poverty in Mississauga.

This guide will walk you through the steps to plan and promote your food drive – it's easier than you think. Our goal is to equip you with all the tools required to make your food drive a success, and to ensure you have fun while you're at it!

We thank you for your support!

## Plan

Things always run better with a plan. Decide on the target and timing of your drive, register it with The Compass, and gather all your supplies.

Here's a basic checklist to get your food drive started:

- 1) Research – see if there are other food drives happening in your community, it is best to host a drive that does not overlap with others
- 2) What type of food drive will you be having? There are many different ways you can host a food drive. Here are a few examples:
  - a. Door-to-door: Knocking on your neighbourhood's doors and asking for any food donations. You can also advertise around your neighbourhood for a designated pick-up time and the community can leave their donations outside before a certain time and you can collect them off of the doorstep! Ask The Compass for printed bags that you can use.
  - b. Collection Location: Advertise to your neighbourhood that you will be collecting donations at a specific location during a set period of time and they will bring their donations to you!
  - c. Themed: Food drives with themes can make them more fun and specify the items to be donated. Some themes can include Toiletries, Food Kids Love, Back to School, and Healthy Eating! If you're having a food drive over the course of a week, each day can be a different theme!
- 3) Determine the timing and length of the drive – the length of a drive can range from one day to a full month!
- 4) Determine how you will collect the donations and if you require any assistance – will you be going door-to-door collecting items or will there be collection boxes at specific locations?

- 5) Set a goal for your drive! How many pounds of food would you like to be donated? Setting realistic goals will increase motivation and
- 6) Register your food drive with The Compass [here](#).
- 7) Visit the Compass for bags (door-to-door campaigns), donation bins, and Compass brochures!

Check out the website for the most needed items of the week. We also have a list of items that are usually in short supply here. Many food banks tend to be in short supply of culturally-appropriate foods as well.

If you do not live in the Mississauga area, check out Food Banks Canada to find your local food organization [here](#).

## Promote

Get the word out about your food drive to ensure its success! Spread the news about your food drive! No matter the length of your food drive, it's important to start advertising for four weeks in advance.

Simple ways to advertise:

- Sharing via social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn
- Print off marketing materials to post or distribute around the environment where you're hosting the food drive
- Word of mouth! Tell your neighbours, school, and even local business owners about the drive

Marketing material should include the following information:

Timing

Collection Locations

Most Needed Items – our website shows needed items for the week or click [here](#) for our critical commodity list.

## Collect & Donate

Now for the fun part – pick timings for collection and call or email The Compass to arrange drop-off.

Financial donations are always welcome! If someone is unable to donate food, ask if they can donate money. Financial donations are used to buy items such as fresh fruit and vegetables and help support our client programs!

### Drop Off Times:

Monday: 11:30am – 8pm

Tuesday: 11:30am – 6pm

Wednesday: 9am – 5pm

Thursday: Call 905-274-9309 for hours

Friday: 9am – 5pm

If you have a very large amount to donate, please call or email us beforehand to coordinate a time. For food drives over 150 pounds, you can arrange a pick-up.

## Appreciate

Share the results of the drive and the impact donations have made with everyone involved!

Now that you've dropped off donations, you can thank everyone who helped by letting them know how many items were collected and the impact they have made. People love to see how their donations have impacted the com

munity and want to feel appreciated.

You've done a lot of hard work so you should celebrate your accomplishment! Count items, build a tower, spread the word on social media! It's important to recognize the hard work you and your volunteers have done. Send a photo to The Compass and you may even be featured in one of our blogs!



## What Now?

Now that your food drive is over you can relax! But there is still a lot more work that can be done. Staying involved in your community is a great way to promote community health and wellbeing. Maybe your food drive can become an annual event! Research different ways you can continue to volunteer and help your community and stay involved!

We'd love for you to become more involved with The Compass – it's not just a food bank after all! Look on our website's [volunteer page](#) to see where you can get involved.

## Tips

- Hosting a food drive over the course of one week will provide more opportunities for community members to donate food
- Ask local businesses what they do with their food leftovers and see if they would be willing to donate
- Food Drives are easier (and more fun!) when you organize with a group

If you think of other tips that have helped you during your food drive that are not listed here – please email us at [blog@thecompass.ca](mailto:blog@thecompass.ca) and let us know!